

University of Southern Mississippi
Southern Station - P.O. Box 1773
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401
February 18, 1972

Dear Hal,

Thank you very much for your good letter of January 21, and please accept my sincere apologies for delaying my answer. I am swamped with exams and plans, as my degree application has been approved, and I will graduate May 20. I have also made several blunders, largely as the result of not reading any newspapers in the last few months (and depending on TV news), thus I had missed completely (until my roommate supplied me with info) the Lattimer story on the X-rays. Now that I have understood, I hasten to do what you requested, as I had previously thought this only related to his 66 and 67 articles, which could wait. Although I have another test in the a.m., I will probably be up all p.m. anyway, so I will go into it the best I can.

In the same mail with this letter, I am sending Dr. Lattimer the enclosed epistle, which covers the information you mentioned. I will be glad to send you complete copies of everything I may get back from him. The letter took considerable time, and I have worded it carefully, including a subtle phraseology which is natural for ultrarightists.

You are so right in saying this will be one of their worst mistakes. Surely even the uneducated will recognize this as a desperate move on the government's part, not only to use such a far-out character (politically), but also to dispute again their basic findings. Obviously, if the wound in the President is more at a downward angle than depicted in the Report, it could not possibly have gone on into Connally. (Bud gave me a copy of his summary pleadings for Garrison for the X-rays and photos, based on your work.) The anti-semitism in my letter may help, as he will probably use it to attack me in order to justify his own beliefs, very obliquely.

Please keep me informed on this matter. Also, one thing I neglected to ask you about, on this subject. In Manchester's fiction, where he refutes Epstein and says three doctors looked at the autopsy material, and that by agreement with the Kennedys it would be withheld until 1971, when it would be made available to qualified pathologists. I also have a letter from the Justice Department to this effect. Isn't that promise now due? What about Dr. Nichols and his suit?

Also, when you can, tell me what is the status of Ray now? Any word yet on his appeal? What does Bud say? And are you still hopeful?

I hope this letter will be just one of several things I can be doing for you. Please keep me posted, and don't hesitate to write, wire or call me collect if anything comes up. By the way, if you go back to Memphis again, or Knoxville, for a hearing for Ray or anything, please call me if you can -- I'd like to drive up there, and maybe we could have lunch if there's time. Again, don't hesitate to call on me to do anything, and I hope you will continue to send things like this for me from time to time as often as you have anything.

I see by the paper, which you may have missed (in the States, which I picked up only because a professor mentioned it), that Garrison has appealed to the [REDACTED] Supreme Court [REDACTED] to dismiss Shaw's damage suit; Shaw, in turn, is asking the S.C. to throw out Garrison's perjury charge. So the cat once again chases the mouse around and around. Perhaps it's for the best, though, as you once said, I do hope Lewis F. Powell will recuse himself, *in both cases.* *(for it to end in a draw)*

Finally, Harold, if I might ask a tremendous favor of you. In order to go to law school (I have put in applications to Tulane and Loyola), I will have to work part-time. I have registered with the placement office on campus, and am required to have statements from my previous employment experience, and if it is not too much to ask, do you think you could fill out one of these forms, and possibly make some comments at the bottom? The people I worked with have all gone from Garrison's office now, and you are the only one familiar enough to ask. If this is too much, don't give it another thought.

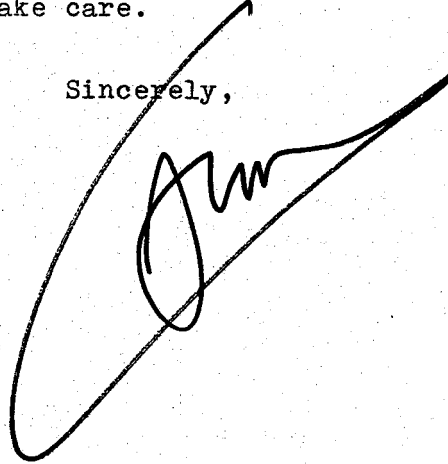
I'll look forward to seeing you again; soon, I hope. And do keep in mind my invitation to you as a standing one to come down to the Gulf Coast anytime (just give me a ring), and we can have an extended visit.

Oh, before I forget, when you were in Dallas, did you get a chance to go in that new museum in the Dal-Tex bldg.? I was up there to shoot some scenes for a cinematography class, and took time to go in. The people that own are named Sissum. It's been opened 17 months, the lady said (Mrs. Sissum). They are very nice, although I have some mixed emotions about the commercialization. They do have an interesting filmstrip, and model of Dallas, with lights simulating the motorcade route, and actualities which I'd not heard before, although some, like the shots, were dubbed, and they have some record albums (including one, of a Dallas radio station's coverage) which I don't have. I couldn't afford it then, but I'll get copies when I go at the end of this month. Can you think of anything I might do? I might ask for a copy of their narration to that film, if you'd be interested? Also, I have a copy of NBC's radio coverage, including a report by Robert MacNeil

"Police chased an unknown gunman across some railroad tracks..."
and such matter-- would you be interested in this?

Must go now; look forward to hearing from you, and until
we're together again, please take care.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a prominent loop and a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.